

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-4, 10-16, and 22-27 in accordance with the following:

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1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a storage device recording screen information of picture information; and
an image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information,
comprising:
a copy guard detecting circuit detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal of picture information,
a video decoding circuit digitizing the input video signal, and
an image processing circuit reducing screen information digitized by said video decoding circuit, to deteriorate an image quality, and storing the reduced screen information to said storage device, in a case where said copy guard detecting circuit detects the copy guard signal.
 2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a storage device recording screen information of picture information; and
an image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, comprising:
a copy guard detecting circuit detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal of picture information,
a video decoding circuit digitizing the input video signal, and
an image processing circuit preventing from storing screen information digitized by said video decoding circuit to said storage device, in a case where said copy guard detecting circuit detects the copy guard signal.
 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a storage device recording screen information of picture information; and
an image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, comprising:

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a copy guard detecting circuit detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal of picture information,

a video decoding circuit digitizing the input video signal, and
an image processing circuit storing to said storage device, both screen information digitized by said video decoding circuit and the fact of the detection by said copy guard detecting circuit of the copy guard signal.

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4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image controlling circuit, further comprises:

a video encoding circuit encoding screen information and outputting a video signal;
and

said image processing circuit further comprises a circuit reducing the screen information, to deteriorate an image quality, in a case where an output of screen information stored in the storage device is ordered.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image controlling circuit, further comprises:

a video encoding circuit encoding screen information and outputting a video signal;
and

a prohibiting circuit preventing said video encoding circuit from outputting the video signal, in a case where an output of screen information stored in the storage device is ordered.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image controlling circuit, further comprises:

a video encoding circuit adding a copy guard signal to the output of screen information stored at the storage device, encoding and outputting a video signal.

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10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a storage device recording screen information of picture information; and
an image controlling circuit controlling screen information which is recorded at said storage device, comprising:
an image processing circuit reducing the screen information, to deteriorate an image quality, in a case where the screen information is protected from copying, and
a video encoding circuit encoding the screen information ~~processed~~ reduced by said image processing circuit and outputting a video signal.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a storage device recording screen information of picture information; and
an image controlling circuit controlling screen information which is recorded at said storage device, comprising:
a video encoding circuit encoding the screen information and outputting a video signal, and
a prohibiting circuit preventing said video encoding circuit from outputting the video signal, in a case where the screen information is protected from copying.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a storage device recording screen information of picture information; and
an image controlling circuit controlling screen information which is recorded at a said storage device, comprising:
a video encoding circuit adding a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, in a case where the screen information is protected from copying, encoding the screen information and outputting a video signal.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~In an image processing apparatus having a storage device recording picture information and an image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, a~~ A method for controlling image information, comprising:
detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal;
digitizing the input video signal;
reducing the digitized screen information, to deteriorate an image quality, in a case where the copy guard signal has been detected; and

storing the reduced screen information ~~to said storage device~~.

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14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~In an image processing apparatus having a storage device recording picture information and an image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, a~~ A method for controlling image information, comprising:
detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal;
digitizing the input video signal; and
preventing ~~a storing picture of screen information to said storage device~~, in a case where the copy guard signal has been detected.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~In an image processing apparatus having a storage device recording picture information and an image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, a~~ A method for controlling image information, comprising:
detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal;
digitizing the input video signal; and
storing ~~to said storage device~~, both digitized screen information ~~digitized~~ and a fact that the copy guard signal has been detected.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controlling image information as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:
reducing the screen information stored at the storage device to deteriorate an image quality; and
outputting a video signal of the reduced screen information.

17. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method for controlling image information as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:
preventing outputting of the video signal, in a case where an output of screen information, stored at the storage device, is ordered.

18. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method for controlling image information as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:
outputting the screen information as a video signal; and

adding a copy guard signal to the output of the video signal.

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Claims 19-21 (CANCELLED)

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22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~In an image processing apparatus having a storage device recording picture information and image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, a~~ A method for controlling image information, comprising:

recording digitized screen information ~~to said storage device~~;
reducing the digitized screen information to deteriorate quality of an image, in a case where the digitized screen information is protected from copying; and
outputting a video signal of the reduced and digitized screen information.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~In an image processing apparatus having a storage device recording picture information and image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, a~~ A method for processing controlling image information, comprising:

recording digitized screen information ~~to said a storage device~~; and
preventing outputting of ~~the a~~ video signal, in a case where the screen information is protected from copying.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~In an image processing apparatus having a storage device recording picture information and image controlling circuit controlling input and output of picture information, a~~ A method for processing controlling image information, comprising:

recording digitized screen information ~~to said storage device~~;
outputting the digitized screen information as a video signal; and
adding a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, to the output video signal, in a case where the screen information is protected from copying.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ storing a computer-readable program which controls a computer system to execute an image controlling process, by:

detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal; and

reducing screen information to deteriorate an image quality, digitized out of the input video signal, in a case where the copy guard signal is detected.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-readable program which controls a computer system to execute an image controlling process, by:

detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal; and

preventing storing of the input video signal, as digitized, in a case where the copy guard signal is detected.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-readable program which controls a computer system to execute an image controlling process, by:

detecting a copy guard signal, indicating a copying restriction, included in an input video signal; and

storing to a storage device, both digitized screen information and fact that the copy guard signal has been detected.